U.S. Patent Application No. 10/689,755
Amendment dated February 26, 2008
Reply to Office Action of November 26, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and continued examination of the above-identified application are respectfully requested.

The applicants appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representatives during the telephone interview of January 11, 2008, and the follow up telephone conversation of January 15, 2008. During the interview and the follow up telephone conversation, the claimed invention was discussed as well as the references cited in the Office Action.

Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 8 have been amended. Claims 12 – 19 have been added by this amendment. Support for the amendments to the claims and the new claims can be found throughout the present application, including the drawings and claims, for instance, page 7, lines 8-18; page 8, lines 9-25; and page 9, line 16 to page 10, line 6, and in Figs. 1, 3, and 4. Accordingly, support for this amendment exists and no questions of new matter arise. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 1, 4, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) -- Yamagata in view of Official Notice

At page 3, item 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 4, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yamagata (U.S. Patent No. 6,021,222) in view of Official Notice. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites the feature of an element setting unit that selectively sets a plurality of window elements in a one edge window. The window elements are capable of being arranged such that they are mutually overlapping in the width direction of the edge window. The Examiner asserts FIGS. 4A-4B of Yamagata as the basis for rejecting the plurality of window elements of the present application. Specifically, the Examiner equates the neighborhoods A, B, and C, in

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FIG. 4A of Yamagata, with the window elements of the present application. The neighborhoods A, B, and C, of Yamagata FIG. 4A, suggest groupings of 5 X 9 matrices or "areas" of numerical values, where the numerical values correspond to the brightness of individual pixels within that area. A gradient vector calculator is applied to these numerical values. Yamagata suggests the purpose of the gradient vector calculator is to determine a gradient vector for each pixel in the matrix. As one skilled in the art will appreciate, the gradient vector has two components, a magnitude and a direction. The magnitude represents the rate at which the slope the outline of an object is changing, and the direction represents in which direction the slope occurs. However, the gradient vector does not represent the edge width of an object. This is very different from the present invention, where each window element determines an edge width of an object, not a vector.

If one compares FIG. 4A of Yamagata, with FIG. 1 of the present application, the differences between the two become even more apparent. As recited, an element setting unit selectively sets a plurality of window elements, which are capable of being positioned such that window elements mutually overlap with the adjacent window elements in the width direction. Each window element 10 determines an edge width of an object. In this example there are four window elements, therefore, four object widths are determined (W1-W4). Every window element determines an object width. This is different from the "areas" in Yamagata. The areas A, B, and C of FIG. 4A are shifted throughout the image, and they do not encompass the entire edge window. Moreover, they are not capable of mutually overlapping, nor is there any mention of the areas mutually overlapping. They are used to calculate vectors at specific locations, not widths of an object. Furthermore, there is nothing within Yamagata that would enable or suggest one skilled in the art to mutually overlap the areas A, B, and C, and determine a width value of an

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object from each of the areas A, B, and C. For these reasons, claim 1 of the present invention distinguishes over Yamagata and the Official Notice. Claim 4 depends from claim 1, and should be allowed for the same reasons presented for claim 1. Claim 5 recites a method containing similar recited features as claim 1, therefore, claim 5 also distinguishes over Yamagata and the Official Notice. In view of this, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection of claims 2, 3, and 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) – Yamagata in view of Official Notice and Lopez et al.

At page 4, item 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 2, 3, and 6-11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Yamagata in view of Official Notice as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Lopez (U.S. Patent No. 6,148,117. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Office Action acknowledges that Yamagata and the Official Notice do not teach or suggest having the user select various parameters of filtering processes, and cites Lopez et al. to cure the deficiencies. Lopez et al. relates to an image processing system with an alterable local convolution kernel, but describes no more of the overall image processing apparatus, record medium, or method as discussed above in connection with claims 1, 4, and 5. As such, Lopez fails to cure the previously mentioned deficiencies of Yamagata and the Official Notice. Claims 2, 3, and 6-11 depend ultimately from claims 1 and 5, and distinguish over Yamagata combined with the Official Notice, even if combination were proper, for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 5. In view of this, claims 2, 3, 6, and 7-11 distinguish over Yamagata, the Official Notice, and Lopez et al., even if combination were proper, and the rejection of those claims should be withdrawn.

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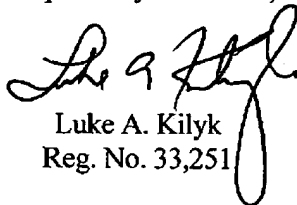Reply to Office Action of November 26, 2007

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the applicant respectfully requests the reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0925. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such extension is requested and should also be charged to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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